

Resolution of the First Consultative Conference  
on the Current State of Movements for Ethiopian Democracy  
East Lansing, MI

May 15, 2011

Recognizing that the desire for peace, liberty, prosperity, and unity of community and nation are cherished values of the Ethiopian people;

Appreciating that institutionalizing such core values in an enduring system of democratic governance requires the active engagement of citizens, especially the youth, who are determined to exercise their sovereign rights through active participation in civic as well as political organizations of their choice;

Noting with serious concern that fledgling civic and professional organizations in Ethiopia have been under relentless attacks by successive ruling regimes, and have yet to coalesce into an effective Ethiopian civic forum to mount a united civic movement for change;

Noting further that myriad opposition political parties and other political organizations have also failed to sustain various admirable initiatives to rally around a patriotic platform for free and fair political competition under a constitutional government;

Recognizing that, although the struggle for freedom and democracy takes place primarily inside Ethiopia, Ethiopians and other people of good will in the Diaspora have a special responsibility to support the emergence of responsible, non-violent civic and political movements;

Keenly aware of the urgent need for well-considered financial support, shared vision of where the country ought to go, and a workable platform for united action built around the core values that bind all Ethiopians;

The First Consultative Conference (FCC) organized by the Ethiopian National Congress (ENC), which met in East Lansing, Michigan, May 13-15, after deliberating on an extensive study of the recent history of unity formation, has resolved:

1. to endorse the Citizens Charter for a Democratic Ethiopia as the guiding vision document for the coalition of rights-based civic organizations (which are united under the Ethiopian National Priorities Consultative Process or ENPCP);
2. to call on the civic coalition to expeditiously organize a convention to broaden and strengthen the civic leg of the movement for Ethiopian democracy;
3. to uphold the following core values which should be embraced by all who are committed to *Ethiopiawinet*. These values are national sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of the unity of the Ethiopian people, respect for internationally recognized individual civil and political rights, respect for private property, and separation of powers in government structures;
4. to underscore the need to form an Alliance for Ethiopia (AFE) comprising civic movements, political organizations, and concerned individuals; and to this effect,
5. to support the establishment of a National Unity Facilitation Committee (NUFC) to be spearheaded by ENC and ENPCP in cooperation with other civic organizations, but also to include a wide cross-section of prominent Ethiopians who are not affiliated with civic or political organizations.